

FEARS INVASION BY MOTQUITOES

ASKS COOPERATION IN DESTROY-
ING BREEDING PLACES.

Rains Fill Tin Cans

Weeds Conceal Bottles and Jugs Full
of Rain Water and Give Insects
Opportunity to Breed.

Columbia, July 27.—Culex and anopheles, which are pet names applied by scientists to two varieties of mosquitoes, promise to make trouble during the next few days unless citizens take measures to prevent their breeding, says Dr. C. E. Smith, city health officer.

The rains have caused the weeds to grow up like Jonah's gourd, and many a back yard is a feeble imitation of "No Man's Land," with jimson and rag weeds flourishing like the bay tree. Dr. Smith says that the weeds likely conceal many empty cans, bottles, and jugs. Garbage collectors will hardly be able to discover these cans and the abundant rains have filled many of them to the brim. In the shadow of the weeds, the water in these receptacles will evaporate slowly, and the female mosquitoes could ask no better shelter for their eggs than a hidden tomato can half full of rain water. It is up to the housekeeper to empty these cans and bottles and put them in the trash box where the garbage man can find them and cart them off. Otherwise, mosquitoes will breed in them and make trouble for neighbors.

The recent rains, Dr. Smith said yesterday, have washed out many holes in yards, in the streets and in ditches. These pot holes are full of water and many of them are hidden by grass and make ideal places for the culex and the anopheles to deposit their eggs.

Houses with flat tin roofs often hold rain water. Puddles on roofs are not held in contempt by lady mosquitoes who deposit eggs without much regard to elevation.

Dr. Smith said yesterday that leaves from trees falling in ditches and thence being carried into culverts sometimes collect and hold water. Dams are also formed in open ditches by leaves and debris, and the high percentage of humidity which has obtained during the past ten days has prevented much evaporation, so that the puddles are now warming in the sunlight.

With all these factors in their favor, Dr. Smith expects the mosquitoes to breed with considerable rapidity, and he hopes that the householders will cooperate with the health department in eliminating prospective mosquito nurseries.

The female mosquito deposits eggs in water, and in about two days the eggs hatch wiggle tails, later developing into mosquitoes and, flying from their breeding places, seek whom they may devour. The time from the laying of the egg to the emergence of the full grown mosquito varies somewhat according to the temperature of the water. The mosquitoes may emerge within as short a period as nine days after the deposit by the female, though usually a longer time is required for development.

The female mosquito lives largely on blood, while the male subsists on vegetation. The weeds provide excellent feeding and hiding places for the mosquitoes, but they do not breed in the weeds, unless pools of water are present. By cutting down weeds hiding places are destroyed and the mosquito is deprived of a place of concealment.

Dr. Smith anticipates that the insects will be disagreeable for a short time, unless householders use every precaution to see that standing water about the premises is emptied.

Weeds should be cut down in back yards and efforts made to clear away rubbish of all kinds so that pools of water may evaporate before the eggs have opportunity to hatch.

Natural Deductions.

"Can you tell me what the ruler of Russia was called?" asked the teacher.

"The Czar," roared the class.

"And what was the Czar's wife known as?"

Only two voices answered this time:

"The Czarina."

"Ah!" said the teacher, eyeing his flock fondly. "This is very good. Now, who will tell me what the Czar's children were called?"

"Czardines!" yelled one little boy.

Geographical.

"Papa, where is Atoms?"

"Atoms? I don't know, my boy. You mean Athens probably."

"No, I mean Atoms—the place where everything is blown to."—Aw-gwan.

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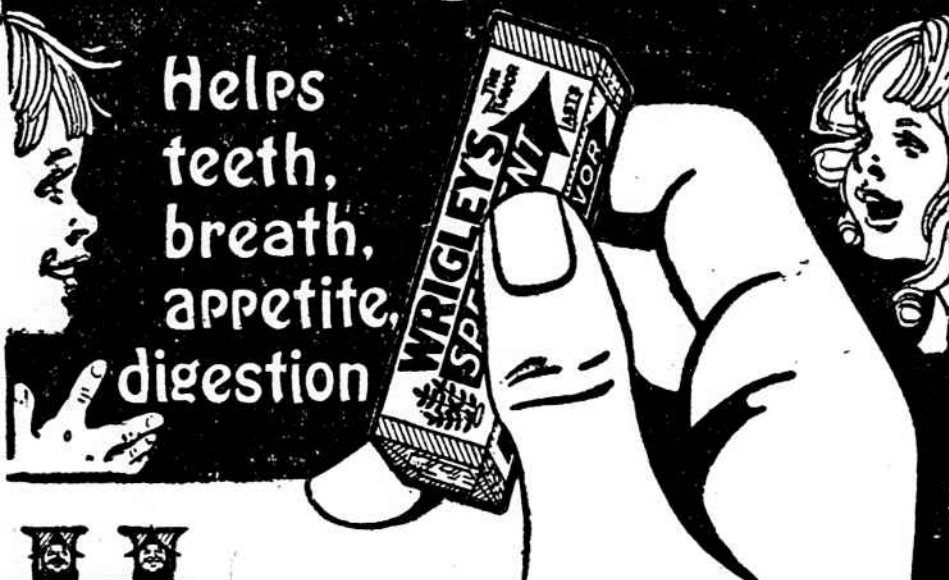


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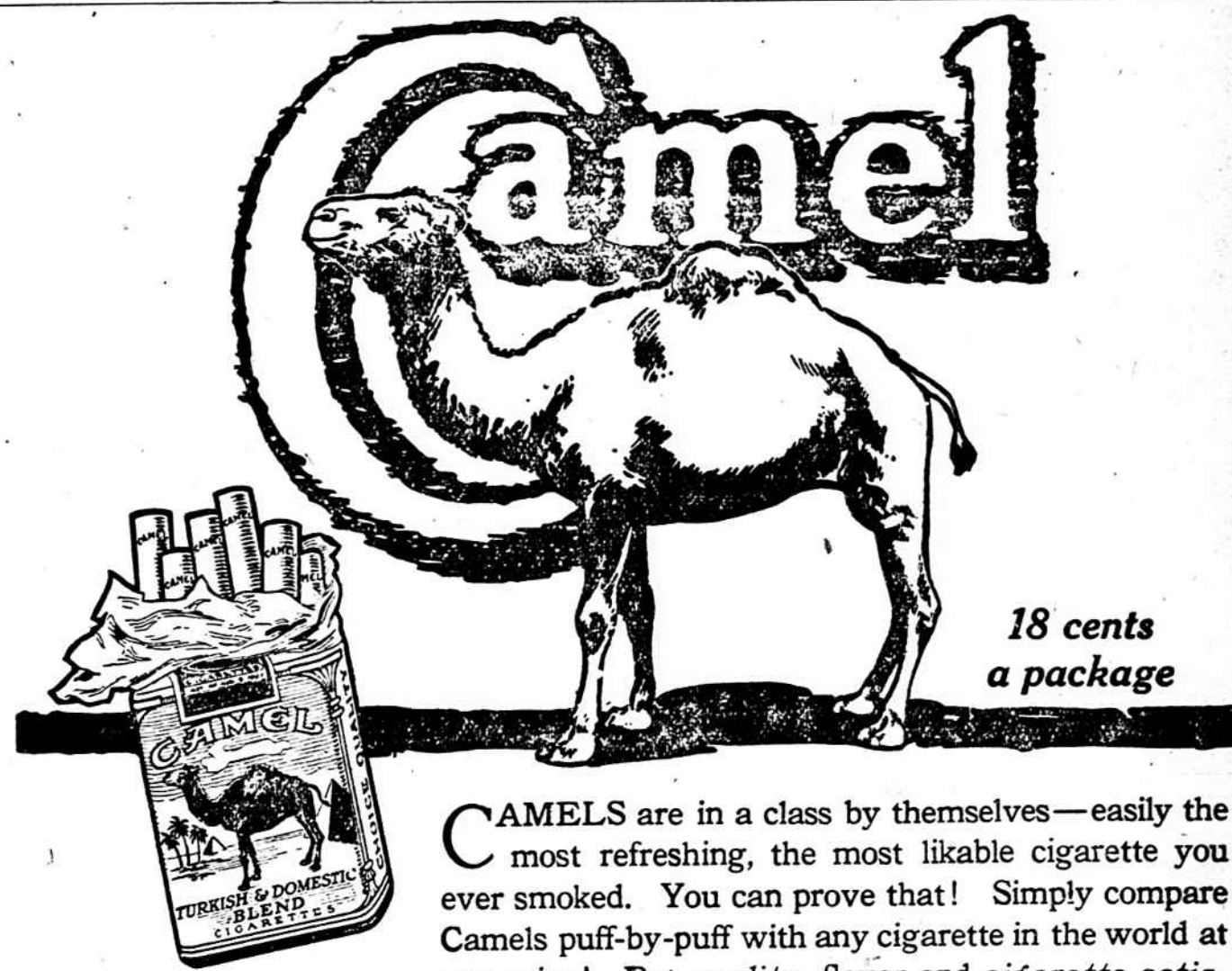
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